UPPER COMMON AREA FORM

Comprehensive Communitywide Survey
Fitchburg

Area Survey Form C, P Upper Common Area

1 Caldwell Place
First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church
Rollstone Boulder
1-3 Prospect Street
WWI Memorial
WWII Memorial
Boys Playing With Turtles
Vietnam Korean Memorial
791-805 Main Street
781-773-775-779 Main Street
Longsjo Memorial
781 Main Street
820 Main Street
15 Rollstone Street & 854 Main Street
900-904 Main Street
910-924 Main Street
881 Main Street
780 Main Street
808 Main Street
Upper Common looking East

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FORM A - AREA

Assessor's Sheets	USGS Quad	Area Letter	Form Numbers in Are
		C, P	200-251,369-370, 902, 904, 947-952

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town Fitchburg

Place *(neighborhood or village)*

Upper Common

Name of Area Upper Common

Present Use Residential, Commercial, Institutional and Retail

Construction Dates or Period 1796-1974

Overall Condition Fair

Major Intrusions and Alterations
Demolition of properties at 730 Main Street & 846 Main Street; Addition of the Federal Building and parking lot at 881 Main Street

Acreage

Recorded by Julie Ann Larry
Turk Tracey & Larry Architects, LLC

Organization City of Fitchburg, Office of Planning Coordinator

Date *(month / year)* April 2000

Photograph
(3" x 3" or 3- ½" x 5", black and white only)
Label photos on black with town and addresses for all) buildings shown. Record film roll and negative numbers here on the form. Staple 1-2 photos to left side of form over this space. Attach additional photos to continuation sheets.

roll	negative(s)
9	3-27

Sketch Map
Draw a map of the area indicating properties within it. Circle and number properties for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Attach a continuation sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate north.

Follow Massachus Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

C, P 200-251, 369-370, 902, 904, 947-952

AREA FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ *see continuation sheet*

Describe architectural, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community

The Upper Common is a rectangular green edged by deciduous trees. Vehicular traffic moves around the Common in several lanes. The Common is ringed by residential, religious, commercial, and government buildings. The continuous wall of buildings is broken most notably on the Corner of Rollstone and Main Streets and the corner of Main Street and Merriam Parkway.

900-904 Main Street (MHC #222) is the Debonis Building and former second Fitchburg meeting house. Little remains of the exterior of the original meeting house. The front gable end has a modern arched green house atop a concrete foundation wall along the front of the first floor shopfronts. The four symmetrical second floor windows are pairs of tall narrow casement windows divided from an upper pair of casements by a wood panel. The central windows in the third floor gable is an arched window flanked by two large double hung windows. The building has a stucco-like textural coating. There are two entrances, a modern storefront and a single door leading to the upper stories on the far western bay of the building.

At the head of the Common on a small knoll sits the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church (MHC #369). Reached by a wide set of granite steps the central portion of the gabled end is a two story recessed portico with a granite lintel supported by two full height Doric columns. The granite base of the building is topped by brick walls which end under a slightly projecting cornice below the slate roof. The Greek Revival pediment of the front is pierced by a small triangular window with a granite sill. The bell tower steps back in three tiers beneath the octagonal spire. The second and third tiers have central shuttered openings. The spire is topped by a weathervane.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ *see continuation sheet*

Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this relates to the historical development of the community.

During the last part of the eighteenth century the second center of development in Fitchburg occurred upriver at the junction of major crossroads in the area now occupied by the Commons. In 1796 the second meeting house in Fitchburg was constructed on the site of the present Common. The second meeting house now located at 900-904 Main Street (MHC #222) was dedicated 19 January 1797. Built on land donated by Captain William Brown. It was moved in 1836. In 1887 the building was known as Crocker's Hall and housed clothing and music stores on the shop level and an armory on the second floor. The interior and exterior have been heavily altered during the twentieth century when it was used as apartments.

South of the Common near the southeastern corner of Rollstone and Main Streets was a complex of buildings around Factory Square. The dominant presence in the square was the masonry mill building on the southern end of the square. Built in 1807, it housed the first cotton mill in Fitchburg. This cotton mill was the third cotton mill built in Massachusetts and was built for Ephraim Kimball. In 1822 the mill was purchased by Abial Towne and Samuel Willis and utilized for the manufacture of wool cassimere and flannel by the Fitchburg Woolen Company. The mill "annually produced 150,000 yards of cassimere and flannel out of 160,000 pounds of raw wool in its heyday."[1] The stone mill was four stories high with a basement. Adjacent to the mill building were a dye house to the south east and a drying house to the southwest. A mill pond between Circle Street and Rollstone Street fed water into a canal. Water passed through the mill building, under the dye house and emptied into a covered flume. Water then rejoined the Nashua River opposite the end of Wood Place. On the eastern side of the Square was the Fitchburg Hotel. To the West was a row of two story brick and wood frame dwellings for mill employees. In the middle of the Square was the two-story fire house and near the mouth of the Square on Main Street were the City's hay scales.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☒ *see continuation sheet*

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form*

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[1] Ruth Penka, *Fitchburg's Golden Age: Industry & Philanthropy 1863-1923* (Fitchburg: [Fitchburg Historical Society], 1995) p.10.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION cont'd

The four brick row houses at 910, 914, 918, 924 Main Street (MHC #223) are three stories high with gable roofs. Each unit is three bays wide, except for the westernmost house, which is four bays wide. The windows have granite lintels and sills. The western first floor bay of each unit is the main entrance. Two entry doors are sheltered by a Doric column portico at 900 Main St. The portico at 924 Main Street is similar in style, although the portico has been partially in-filled with multi-paned glass windows and a door topped by multi-paned glass transoms. The entry door at 918 Main Street has no entry portico. A recessed door flanked by sidelights sits in a granite lintel opening. The entry at 914 Main Street is a two-story wood framed flat roof addition. Two windows under three second floor windows atop three wood panels flank the central multi-paned glass door. A Chimney protrudes from the east end of each unit's roof. The rowhouses are an example of early residences built along the edge of the common, which provide a sense of containment for the open green space.

1 Prospect Street (MHC #c-297) is a brick 2 ½ story Greek Revival residence 5 bays x 3 bays. A full width porch extends across the front of the first floor facing the common. The central bay of the porch aligns with the central entry bay of the house and is marked by a small gable. The columns supporting the porch are Victorian with crosses and circular patterns. A low balustrade joins the columns. The porch skirt is a machined picket pattern. The windows have granite lintels and sill and are 2/2. The stables on Mechanic Street are connected to the main house by a wood frame wood clapboard recessed connector with an entry door and engaged columns dividing the wood clapboards facade. The wood connector extends behind the main house and has a hipped roof. The stable is a rectangular brick 2 ½ story Greek Revival with a gable roof and two-story projecting bay facing the common. A large window to the north of the bay on the first floor is a fixed glass panel under a multi-paned pane. The windows in the stable also have granite lintels and sills.

791/799/805 Main Street (MHC # C-213) is a five story commercial building. This building with the adjoining commercial buildings at 781 Main Street (MHC #C-212) and 773/775/779 Main Street (MHC #C-210) form another continuous wall around the lower edge of the common similar to the rowhouses. The building is four bays wide. The first floor storefronts have been altered with a modern curtain wall. The paired double hung third and second floor windows of each bay are separated by a decorative panel and framed by an egg and dart molding. A continuous band with garlands and 'The Phoenix' lettering separates the third and fourth floors. The fourth floor windows are paired double hungs in an arched opening. A narrower beltcourse separates the fifth floor windows, a trio of double hung windows below the dentils and brackets of the deep projecting cornice. The entry to the upper floors is in the eastern bay. The entry door is recessed and flanked by marble columns. Brackets and a projecting hood frame a tripartite transom. The brackets and hood support the projecting second floor window bay of three narrow windows under a small pediment breaking a stone balustrade at the third floor window.

Swedish Emanuel Lutheran Evangelical Church (MHC #C-250) to the rear of the First Parish Church is a two story wood framed church with a pediment broken by the projecting bell tower. The corners of the first floor are wood quoins, and are separated from the second floor by a beltcourse. The corners of the second floor are pilasters festooned with carved wood garlands. The cornice and eaves of the pediment are dentilled. A portico of a gable supported by slender columns projects from the central bay of the bell tower. A Palladian window on the second floor is centered on the paired double hung window and keystoned oval window in the upper stories of the bell tower. The top of the bell tower is crowned with four urns atop corner pedestals connected by a wood balustrade. Four columns supporting a deep cornice and decorative balustrade support the base of the octagonal steeple. The decorative balustrade has smaller urns atop angled pedestals. The remaining first floor windows are tall narrow double hung windows, and the remaining second floor windows are arched windows with a wood keystone in the wood trim.

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION cont'd

The large Romanesque Calvinistic Congregational Church (MHC #C-215) has a corner tower on the corner of Rollstone & Main Streets. The building is made of a rusticated stone atop a granite base. The gables are crowned with terracotta decorative trim surmounted by a cross at each peak. The gable facing Main Street terminates on the west in the corner tower and to the east in a small buttressed turret. A trio of one-story gables with Romanesque arches supported by groups of slender marble columns marks the entrance to the church. A large rose window under a Romanesque arch dominated the gable wall. The corner tower flanks a lower cross gable on Rollstone Street and a tall bell tower that is a scaled version of the corner tower. The smaller gable has an arched central window under a Romanesque arch. Five tall rectangular windows are located under a stone lintel below the arched window. To the south on Rollstone St. is an earlier attached chapel.

The Fitchburg Savings Bank at 780 Main Street (MHC #211) was built in 1962. The one story circular limestone bank building is entered off Main Street. Radiating stone walls sandwich panels of fixed glass along the circumference of the building's exterior. The frieze is decorated with raised geometric shapes that resemble hieroglyphics. To the rear of the one-story bank is a tower sheathed by stone panels. Large letters F, S, B are arranged vertically on the wall of the tower. The tower is connected to the circular bank building by a glass corridor. The tower connects to an enclosed pedestrian bridge leading to a four-story office building. The exterior of the pedestrian bridge is constructed of stone panels, a metal roof and glass curtain wall. The office building is also constructed of stone panels, and glass curtain wall. The material of the roof is unknown. The plan of the office building is irregular. Vehicular traffic off Boulder Drive passes under the pedestrian bridge and accesses a parking lot at the rear of the property overlooking the river.

The Philbin Building at 879 Main Street was built in 1974. Set on a sloping site on the northern edge of the Common. The building has an irregular plan and massing. Dark glass windows infrequently puncture the exterior brick walls. A large parking lot to the west of the building is walled off from Main Street by a five-foot high brick wall. Beyond the parking lot is a truck loading dock. Large numbers are painted on a series of loading bay doors. The front of the building at the corner of Main & Academy Streets a wide concrete ramp leads from the sidewalk steeply uphill to the entry doors, which can also be reached by a set of stairs leading directly to Main Street. The glass doors lead to a lobby of the Post office. The lobby opens into a corridor and elevator lobby, which provides access to the upper level office of the Federal Building in the southwest corner of the building.

The Sentinel and Enterprise building at 808 Main Street is a two-story building set back from Main Street approximately forty feet. Car park within the setback area. Brick columns support a concrete panel lintel. The lintel contains raised bronze lettering "Sentinel and Enterprise". Above the broad lintel is a continuous row of fixed window sashes. A sloping metal roof forms a continuous fascia across the window lintels. The brick end walls of the rectangular building form a false wall. A similarly clad stair tower to the east of the building is three stories in height.

'Boys Playing with Turtles' (MHC #902). is a fountain. The granite pool is approximately 26 feet in diameter. In the center is a bronze figure of an erect boy, and a bronze crouching boy behind him. The figures are playing in the water and protecting themselves from the streams of water the turtles would spray at them. The tallest figure is about five feet high, the granite base is two feet high. There is one bronze turtle towards the southeast perched on the rim of the concrete pool. The fountain is not filled with water. The fountain originally had several turtles.

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION cont'd

Arthur M Longsjo Jr (1931-1958) memorial is a tripartite granite memorial. The central stone has the Olympic torch and bears an inscription memorializing the first American to serve in both Olympics in the same year. The smaller panel to the south has a carving of a cyclist. The panel to the north has a carving of a speed skater.

World War I Memorial (MHC #904) is a bronze winged female carrying a flag atop a base of granite and two steps. There is a plaque on the west side of the monument listing those who gave their lives.

World War II Memorial is a tripartite monument made from granite. The central stone is inscribed with an eagle with a banner beneath reading 'Lest We Forget' above the inscription 'Fitchburg remembers our men and women who served during World War II' at the base are the emblems of each branch of service. The southern panel is dedicated to the Pacific Theatre and is a carved map of the east coast of Asia. The northern panel is dedicated to the European Theatre and is a carved map of the west coast of Europe and Africa. In front of the monument are granite pavers in the form of a 'V' for Victory.

Korean War Veterans and Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a three-sided six foot tall by six inch thick black Vermont granite memorial. The top has an eagle in flight carving. The south east side is dedicated to the Fitchburg Servicemen who died in Korean War. A list of names is listed on the memorial. The northeast side of the memorial is dedicated to Fitchburg servicemen who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. A list of their names and the organizations instrumental in bringing the memorial to completion are engraved in the granite.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE cont'd

In 1860 the Fitchburg Woolen Company came under the ownership of Daniel Kimball and William H Vose who lived just north of the Common at 19-23 Prospect Street (MHC #301). Rodney Wallace, the former resident of 1 Prospect Street, joined Kimball and Vose in 1867. The mill passed through a succession of owners until it was purchased by the Parkhill Manufacturing Company in 1887 becoming the company's Mill B. The stone mill building was demolished in the second half of the twentieth century to allow for construction of Boulder Drive.

The area around the common developed as a residential neighborhood of Federal and Greek Revival residences. By the middle of the nineteenth century doctors and lawyers offices were vying for space with residences on the busy green. To the west of the relocated Town Hall are some of the remaining examples of the Commons residential history. The residences at 910, 914, 918, 924 Main Street (MHC #223) are Greek Revival brick row houses built ca1840-50. CT Crocker owned 910 Main Street in 1870. In 1870 924 Main Street was the home of Amasa Norcross, the Mayor of Fitchburg from 1874-1875. Eleanor Norcross (1854-1923) was born in Fitchburg the daughter of Amasa Norcross and Susan Augusta Wallis.

Eleanor Norcross studied Art at the Massachusetts Art School before leaving to study with William Merritt Chase in New York City in 1878. Then she studied with Alfred Stevens in Paris in 1879 where she befriended Degas, Monet, Renoir and Mary Cassatt.

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE cont'd

From 1879 until her death she remained in Paris, visiting her family in Fitchburg in the summers until her father's death in April of 1898. In Paris she collected art objects including furniture, textiles, tapestries, wood cuts, and French and Italian prints while working in the Louvre's *Musee des Arts Decoratifs*. Her own paintings were exhibited after her death in the Louvre in 1923, Boston's Museum of Fine Arts in 1925, and at Paris' Salon d'Automne in 1924, the first exhibit there of any American painter. Eleanor Norcross's will provided $90,000 for the establishment of an art center for Fitchburg. In 1929 the stable and ballroom of the James Phillips Jr Residence, 25 Merriam Parkway (MHC #247) was renovated as the Fitchburg Art Center, later in 1951 it was renamed the Fitchburg Art Museum. Most of Norcross's painting and collections were destroyed in 1933 in a fire.[2]

The four brick row-house units 910, 914, 918, 924 Main Street bordered the south of the Common. Along the north, detached wood framed single family homes ringed the Common. Built ca 1860 the James Phillips Jr Residence was the two story Second Empire home of the founder of the Beoli Mill, the Fitchburg Worsted Company and the Star Worsted Company woolen mills. The house once owned by Dr JA Marshall sat on a large lot, through which flowed Punch Brook. Amongst the orchard trees to the rear of the house was the one-and-a-half story brick barn (MHC #247) accessed by a drive to the northwest of the house. This drive now forms the southern portion of Merriam Parkway. The drive continued behind the houses on Mechanic Street forming a circular drive around a pond created by the damming of Punch Brook.

Two houses away on Main Street was the Second Empire residence of Arthur H Lowe. Built ca 1860 the dwelling was first the residence of TS Wilson and L Sprague. Ca 1885 Lowe, a mayor of Fitchburg in 1893 was a partner in the manufacture of cotton goods with John Parkhill. John Parkhill, the owner of Parkhill Manufacturing lived nearby at 19-23 Prospect Street (MHC #301). In 1880 he began the Parkhill Company in an old chair factory on Circle Street with Arthur H Lowe and Thomas RB Dole. The Parkhill Company manufactured cotton cloth, especially ginghams and chambray. Between 1887-1889 the Parkhill Company expanded with the purchase of the old Fitchburg Woolen Mill building in Factory Square and Andrew Cleghorn's Cleghorn Mill on River Street. "By 1908, the Parkhill Manufacturing Company had the largest payroll of any company in Fitchburg."[3] Lowe gifted to the city 45 acres for Parkhill Park (MHC # 923) a neighborhood park and playground in the Cleghorn area of Fitchburg.

These two homes, along with two other neighboring Second Empire residences have since been demolished. The site of these homes is now occupied by the Philip J Philbin Federal Building.

At the head of the Common sits the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church (MHC #369). Built by Zachariah Sheldon in 1837 the rear addition of a parish house was designed by HM Francis in 1888-1889. The First Parish Church and 1796 meeting house were the first of many gathering halls for public worship to be built around the Common. In 1882 the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church deeded the Upper Common to the City of Fitchburg.

One remaining unattached residence is 1 Prospect Street (MHC #297). Occupied in 1846 by James Hartwell, the house later was the home of Rodney Wallace of the firm Shepley & Wallace, later the owner of the Fitchburg Paper Co., and a partner with William H Vose in the Fitchburg Woolen Company. Between 1863-1880 the house became the home of Walter G Corey, treasurer of the Wachusetts National Bank. Corey added the stable on the Mechanic Street side of the house. Designed by HM Francis the stables were been converted to apartments. The stables are now the offices of Morrison and Morrison attorneys.

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[2] Ruth Penka, *Fitchburg's Golden Age: Industry & Philanthropy 1863-1923* (Fitchburg: [Fitchburg Historical Society], 1995) p.26.
[3] Ibid p.11.

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE cont'd

In 1844 a railroad line from Boston reached Fitchburg. The rail line was extended to the West in 1874 upon completion of the Hoosac Tunnel. The access through to Albany provided access to the West for the port of Boston and a way for raw materials from the west to reach the manufacturing centers on the East Coast. The railroad brought rapid growth, prosperity and industrial and commercial expansion to Fitchburg. Increased commercial pressure led to the development of office and commercial buildings between the Common and the earlier settlement at the beginning of Main Street, near the railroad station, displacing the earlier residence. As civic and commercial buildings were built along the eastern end of the Common, residential construction extended along Prospect and Mechanic Streets to the northwest.

The Proctor Block at 773/775/779 Main Street (MHC #210) was built in 1832 for commercial and residential use. It was remodeled in the 1880s by HM Francis. 791/799/805 Main Street (MHC # 213) was built in 1840 and 1853 for the Crocker Burbank Co. The two brick buildings were joined in 1975 during a renovation by Joe Permatteo, architect. From 1870-1895 Fitchburg was at the height of its industrial and population expansion. New commercial buldings continued to be built and older commercial buildings were renovated. The Phoenix building at 781 Main Street (MHC #212) was built in 1893 for the Fitchburg Mutal Fire Insurance Co, the current owner. The commercial, residential, and office building was designed by HM Francis. 759-769 Main Street (MHC #209) was remodeled by HM Francis in 1911 with a twentieth century commercial facade. Originally built ca 1840 the Federal Style building served as a post office (1847) and the offices of Ebenezer Torrey & Nathaniel Wood's law practice.

In 1893 the Swedish Congregational Church at 15 Rollstone Street (MHC #235) was built. Designed by HM Francis it served a rapidly growing immigrant population. Nearby at 1 Caldwell Place (MHC #250) the Swedish Emanuel Luthern Evangelical Church was built in 1896. The Colonial Revival building is now the Apostolic Luthern Church. The largest church on the Common was also built in 1896. The Calvanistic Congregational Church at 820 Main Street (MHC #215) is a Richardsonian-Romanesque church designed by HM Francis.

After 1930, industrial growth slowed and the downtown began to decline as economic growth shifted to the western United States and middle class residents continued to move to the suburban neighborhoods. Fitchburg's population growth slowed dramatically between 1915-1940, increasing by only 2,000 overall.[4] Few changes on the Common occurred between 1915-1940. Changes along the north of the Common occurred in the mid 1970s when the Philip J. Philbin Federal Building (MHC #219) was built in 1974. Designed by Perry Dean Stuart the Federal Office Building and Post office continues the presence of government on the Common begun with the Old Town House. In 1975 the Wallace Block at 796-808 Main Street (MHC #214) was demolished. Built in 1892 in the Richardsonian Romanesque Style it was designed by HM Francis for Rodney Wallace, the proprietor of the Fitchburg Paper Company. A Modern office building now occupies the site. To the rear of the Wallace Block were the last remaining buildings that once formed Factory Square. The last original wood framed building that was a part of that complex was demolished in 1976. The stone mill building was demolished earlier to accommodate the construction of Boulder Drive.

The Fitchburg Savings Bank 780 Main Street (MHC #211) was built in 1962. The bank was founded in 1846 a year after the railroad arrived in Fitchburg. The bank was house in two previous buildings, both located along the Upper Common. Bastile Halsey Associates, Boston, designed the current building. The circular building is sheathed in limestone. In 1977 addition by architect Joseph Permatteo was constructed to the rear of the building.

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[4] *Reconnaissance Survey Report for Fitchburg,* ([Boston]: Massachusetts Historical Commission, 1984).

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE cont'd

The Common has developed as a location for memorials and public art. One of the first monuments built in the Common was the Fountain: 'Boys Playing with Turtles' (MHC #902). Designed by Herbert Adams it was constructed in 1888 and dedicated the next year. Adams lived during his childhood in Fitchburg. This is one of his earlier work and was commissioned by Rodney Wallace, Henry A Willis, and James Phillips Jr for presentation to the City. The fountain was restored in 1986.

On the opposite end of the Common is the memorial to Arthur M Longsjo Jr (1931-1958) Longsjo was a two time Olympian competing in the 1956 Summer (Cycling) and Winter Olympics (Speed Skating) of the same year. He was the first American to compete in both the Summer and Winter games of the same year. He was killed in an auto accident after winning a bicycle race in Montreal.

The World War I Memorial (MHC #904) was donated on November 12, 1928. Designed by Herbert Adams the monument is dedicated to the memory of those Fitchburg soldiers who lost their lives during the war. A memorial commemorating World War II was not donated until November 26, 1995. The memorial commemorates the men and women who served in both the Pacific and European Theatres. The World War II memorial was engraved by Hathaway Memorials Inc of Leominster.

A monument to Korean War Veterans and Vietnam Veterans designed by John Marshall was also erected on the Common and dedicated September 11, 1993. The monument was engraved by Beck & Beck, Co in Barre, Vermont and Hathaway Memorials of Leominster.

Located on a separate traffic island, known as Litchfield Park, near the southwest corner of the Common is the Rollstone Boulder. Moved ca 1929/1930 from the summit of Rollstone Hill. In danger of destruction from the quarries, this erratic deposited by receding glaciers was exploded with dynamite, then reassembled using cement and iron rods.

The Upper Common is currently a largely commercial area. The remaining four churches, the monuments, and the Federal Building continue the presence of civic and cultural structures in the Upper Common Area. Structures line nearly the entire street wall of the common except at the southwest corner of the intersection Rollstone and Main Streets and the interscetion of Merriam Parkway and Main Street where parking lots have replaced dwellings and commercial structures. New uses of the historic dwellings and commercial buildings in the twentieth century have resulted in the alteration of historic features of extant buildings or the demolition of historic properties. The quality and quantity of the extant buildings is fair. Most commercial buildings have lost their original storefronts, new storefront additions have been added historically non-commercial properties, and many buildings have lost their historic materials.

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Korean War Veterans and Vietnam Veterans Memorial Inscription:

Korea
John L Belhumeur
William G Daulton
Paul K Donlon
Herbert L Jordan
George H Paine
Ernest B Parris Jr
Antonio L Spagnuolo
Norman F Trudeau
Kenneth E LaBombard

Vietnam
Phillip Ronal Chassion
Thomas Alfred Deschenes
Francis Gerald Frechette
Robert David Gariepy
Zdzislaw Bruno Kadlewicz
Leo Rene Marcoulier
Paul Francis McNally
Charles Ehnstrom Tofferi
Earl Edward Tyree
Wilbur Leo Williams Jr
Gerald Roger Leger
Stevens Riggs
James Skeen Sterling.

AREA P - UPPER COMMON AREA
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

MECHANIC STREET
PLEASANT STREET
DAVIS
ACADEMY STREET
PRICHARD STREET
ACADEMY STREET
ELM STREET
GROVE ST
WALLACE STREET
BROOK STREET
CENTRAL STREET
BAKER STREET
COTTAGE AVE
SQUARE
WOOD PLACE
218
213
212
210
209
215
211
203
200

AREA DATA SHEET
UPPER COMMON
FITCHBURG MASSACHUSETTS

MHC #	Assess #	Resource/Historic Name	Address	Form/Style	Date
228	5883	Bryn-Mawr	973 Main Street	italianate?	c1900
229	5876		992 Main Street	Commercial	c1920
230	5882		993 Main Street	Stick Style	1870s
231	5877		1008 Main Street	Greek Revival	c1850
233	3858		1039 Main Street	Greek Revival	c1840
234	3755		1063 Main Street	Classic/Greek Revival	c1850s
232	5881		1005, 1009, 1011 Main Street	Second Empire	c1860
204	7286	Quinlan building	721-725 Main Street	Classical Revival? Commercial	1913
207			754-756 Main Street	Victorian Commercial	c1880
209	6126	Torrey & Wood Block	759-769 Main Street	Federal, 1910 commercial	1840
210	6125	Proctor Block	773-775-779 Main Street	Federal, Victorian	1832
214		Wallace Block	796, 804, 808 Main Street	Richardsonian-Romanesque	1892(1810)
216	5898	Universalist Church	840-846-850 Main Street	Greek Revival	1847/8
220	5903	Joslin House	872-880 Main Street	Federal?	by 1847
221	5904	Pride House	882-886 Main Street	vernacular pitch roof Greek?	by 1847
222	5914	Old Town Hall	900-904 Main Street	Federal, altered	1796
223	5912		910-914-918 Main Street	Greek Revival	c1840-50
225	5885		937-939 Main Street	triple decker	c1910
226	5874	Battles House	958-960 Main Street	Federal	c1820
227	5875	Old Baptist Church	962-970-972 Main Street	Gable roof	1833, 1831
245	5887		4 Merriam Parkway	Garrison Colonial	by 1930
246	5888		20 Merriam Parkway	Bungalow	c1920
247	6059	Fitchburg Art Museum	25 Merriam Parkway	Norman Brick	c1885
248	3844		33 Merriam Parkway	Federal	c1820
249	3845		46 Merriam Parkway	Greek revival	c1840
235		Swedish Congregational Church	15 Rollstone Street	Shingle?	1893
236			22-24 Rollstone Street	Federal w/neoGeo addition	1810
949		Firefighter's Memorial	Upper Common	memorial	ca. 1990
902		Boys Playing With Turtles"	Upper Common	fountain	1888
948		Arthur M Longsjo Jr Memorial	Upper Common	memorial	1950-1990
904		WWI Memorial	Upper Common	memorial	1928
950		WWII Memorial	Upper Common	memorial	1995
951		Korean and Vietnam Veterans Memorial	Upper Common	memorial	1993
952		Upper Common	Upper Common	landscape	1882

NOTE: Only selected surveyed properties within this area are listed here

AREA DATA SHEET
UPPER COMMON
FITCHBURG MASSACHUSETTS

MHC #	Assess #	Resource/Historic Name	Address	Form/Style	Date
238			23 Baker Street	cape	c1820
239	5895		24 Baker Street	colonial	c1800
240			32 Baker Street	Federal	c1810
250	3847	Swedish Emanuel Luthern Evangelical Church	1 Caldwell Place	Colonial Revival	1896
251	3868		2-4 Caldwell Place	victorian	c1870
241	5905		6 Circle Street		c1790
242	5910		7 Circle Street	commercial	c1920
244	5906		8 Circle Street	Brick Warehouse	1888
243	5907	Crocker field	25 Circle Street		c1920
947		Rollstone Boulder	Litchfield Park	relocated boulder	1929-1930
200			689-717 Main Street	Commercial, Chicago Style	c1927
213	6105		791-799-805 Main Street	Greek Revival, late Federal	1840 & 1853
205		Central Block	730-732-734-740 Main Street	Federal, altered	1847
201	7308		700 Main Street	Greek Revival	c1840
202		Lloyd House, Whitney Block	706 Main Street	eclectic Comercial	1853
203	7323	Fitchburg City Hall	718 Main Street	Greek Revival	1852
206		Stiles Block	748 Main Street	Victorian Commercial	1875
211	7284	Fitchbburg Saving Bank	780 Main Street	Modern	1962
212	6115	Pheonix Building	781 Main Street	Italian Renaissance	1893
370	6086		815 Main Street	commercial	c1972
215	5891	Calvanistic Congregational Church	820 Main Street	Richardsonian-Romanesque	1896
217	5899		858 Main Street	Colonial	c1800
218	5902	Wesley Building	866 Main Street	Greek Revival	1841
219	5889	Philip J. Philbin Federal Building	879 Main Street	Contemporary	1974
369	5886		923 Main Street	Greek Revival	c1837
223	5913		924 Main Street	Greek Revival	c1840-50
224	5915	Mobil Station	938 Main Street	Colonial?	1930s
226	5873	Battles House	956 Main Street	Federal	c1820

NOTE: Only selected surveyed properties within this area are listed here.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Fitchburg Upper Common

Area(s)	Form No.
C, P	200-251,369-370, 902, 904, 947-952

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

☐ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district

☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☒ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by Julie Ann Larry, Turk Tracey & Larry Architects LLC
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

This area meets the criteria for listing as an historic district on the National Register as an example of early nineteenth to late nineteenth century civic development. The site of the second meeting house in Fitchburg, the common is ringed by religious edifices, late nineteenth and twentieth century commercial buildings and a row of mid-nineteenth century brick row-houses. Originally primarily a residential area, the common became an area of predominately civic and commercial use as residential development occurred on the surrounding hillsides. Commercial development was fueled by the close proximity to the mills and factories between the common and the river. Although the common has been altered by the addition of the federal building and the loss of several commercial and industrial buildings near Rollstone Street and Boulder Drive the area possesses integrity of design and setting, in the remaining properties. In addition, the common has developed in the last half of the twentieth century as an area for monuments.

Exact boundaries of a potential National Register District within this area remain to be determined. However the boundaries would likely included all of the properties along Main Street from Wood Place to 958 Main Street and includes the properties on Caldwell Place, Wood Place, and 1 Prospect Street and the adjoining 18 Mechanic Street. This includes the Common, Litchfield Park and the lower traffic island in front of 773-820 Main Street.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

FITCHBURG UPPER COMMON

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)	Form No.
C,P	200-251,369-370, 902, 904, 947-952

1 Caldwell Place

First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)	Form No.
C,P	200-251,369-370, 902, 904, 947-952

Rollstone Boulder

1-3 Prospect Street

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

FITCHBURG UPPER COMMON

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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Area(s)	Form No.
C,P	200-251,369-370, 902, 904, 947-952

WWI Memorial

WWII Memorial

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Area(s)	Form No.
C,P	200-251,369-370, 902, 904, 947-952

Boys Playing With Turtles

Vietnam Korean Memorial

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

FITCHBURG UPPER COMMON

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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Area(s)	Form No.
C,P	200-251,369-370, 902, 904, 947-952

791-805 Main Street

781-773-775-779 Main Street

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Area(s)	Form No.
C,P	200-251,369-370, 902, 904, 947-952

Longsjo Memorial

781 Main Street

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

FITCHBURG UPPER COMMON

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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Area(s)	Form No.
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820 Main Street

820 Main Street

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

FITCHBURG

UPPER COMMON

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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Area(s)	Form No.
C,P	200-251,369-370, 902, 904, 947-952

820 Main Street

820 Main Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)	Form No.
C,P	200-251,369-370, 902, 904, 947-952

15 Rollstone
& 854 Main Street

900-904 Main Street

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

FITCHBURG

UPPER COMMON

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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Area(s)	Form No.
C,P	200-251,369-370, 902, 904, 947-952

910-924 Main Street

881 Main Street

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Area(s)	Form No.
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780 Main Street

808 Main Street

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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Area(s)	Form No.
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Upper Common looking East